Remunarative Price to Farmers

5765. SHRI UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers are not getting adequate remunerative prices for their farm output;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for this situation; and

(c) the concrete steps the Government have taken or propose to take to ameliorate the lot of the farmers and to increase the agricultural production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). One of the main objectives of the Government's price policy for agricultural commodities is to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. The minimum support prices fixed by the Government cover not only the cost of production but also provide a reasonable margin of profit to the producer. The Government also organises purchases operations for major agricultural commodities through public and cooperative agencies.

(c) A number of Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented in the various selected States of the country with a view to increase the productivity of the crops. These schemes include Integrated Programme for Rice Development; Special Foodgrains Production Programme of Wheat; Special Foodgrains Production Programme of Maize and Millets; National Pulses Development Programme; Oilseeds Production Programme; Intensive Cotton Development Programme; Special Jute Development Programme; and Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers for Construction of Shallow Tubewells/Dugwells The Integrated Rural Development Programme and jawhar Rojar Yojana are also being implemented to improve the lot of rural poor including small and marginal farmers.

Drilling of Oil Wells in Cauvery Basin

5766. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil wells drilled so far in the Cauvery basin by the ONGC with the help of erstwhile USSR;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) 15 wells.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 167.19 crores has been incurred upto 31st January, 1992.

(c) No. commercial discovery of hydrocarbons has been made.

[*Translation*]

Subsidised Agricultural Equipments to Farmers

5767. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government Propose to provide agricultural equipments to small and marginal farmers at subsidised rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by what time and the number of farmers likely to benefited under the scheme?